

A Letter to Students and Parents  
from  
Mark A. Jenkins

“Education is the progressive understanding of our own ignorance.”

Will Durant

Social Studies Classes

This class is a learning community built on the assumption that everyone in this program is blessed with good minds. To waste this intelligence would be a great mistake. Therefore, this course holds a strong moral obligation of challenging your thinking. Please keep in mind the following ideas for managing this learning community:

- Each person is important and brings unique contributions to the learning in this class.
- Each person is expected to take personal responsibility for learning. Motivation for life-long learning is something that comes from inside a person.
- Mutual respect of the rights and needs of others is critical. Words hold the power to deeply hurt others as well as nurture their growth.
- Treat all property of your peers and the school with respect.
- Listening is a skill all of us need to practice. This skill is central to learning since it opens us up to new possibilities for growth.
- The expectations for all members of this class are reasonably high. Otherwise, this class would be a mere waste of time and an insult to your intelligence.
- Give your best.
- Note that late assignments for this class are not accepted with the possible exception of extended illness.

Students in this class are the people most qualified to offer suggestions on how I can improve my teaching. Members of this class will be asked to evaluate the instructor in writing by the end of the semester. Thank you for the opportunity to be your instructor this semester.

Respectfully,

Mark A. Jenkins